

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated May 30, 2007. In view of the amendments and the following discussion, the Applicants believe that all claims are in allowable form.

SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to clarify the priority claim. A Request to reconsider the decision rendered in the previously submitted Petition accompanying with this response is provided in a separate paper.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Claims 1-7, 9-11, and 21-31

Claims 1- 7, 9-11 and 21-31 stand rejected as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,838,121 issued November 17, 1998 to *Fairbairn, et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "*Fairbairn*") and United States Patent No. 5,838,681 issued January 5, 1999 to *Maydan, et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "*Maydan*"). In response, the Applicants have submitted concurrently with this response a reconsideration of Decision of Petition to claim benefit of an effective filing date of November 18, 1996. Specifically, the present application now claims benefit of the November 18, 1996 effective filing date as a continuation of United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/751,524, now Patent No. 6,152,070.

Fairbairn and *Maydan* both have an effective filing date of November 18, 1996, which is the same as the effective filing date of the present application. Thus, *Fairbairn* and *Maydan* do not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, claims 1-7, 9-11 and 21-31 are patentable over *Fairbairn* and *Maydan*. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

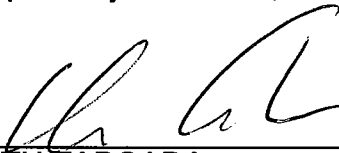
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance.

If the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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